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Homestead Grays Baseball Club

Negro National League Champions 1937-38-40-41

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Press Release

"THE BEST MONEY MAKER IN COLORED BASEBALL"

April ²⁹ 1942

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HEAVY HITTERS TO FEATURE GRAYS-NEWARK

OPENING AT ^{Russport} ~~Griffith~~ STADIUM, SUNDAY

Pittsburgh, Pa.--In spite of how good the pitching will be next Sunday at ^{Russport} ~~Griffith~~ Stadium in ^{Newark} ~~Washington~~, there is bound to be plenty of heavy slugging for the capacity crowd which turns out. This is the day (^{May 3rd} ~~April 29th~~) when Homestead Grays and Newark Eagles open ^{Russport Stadium} ~~the Capital City park~~ for the Negro National League.

The first six men on each club figure to give baseball fans the kind of thrills they pay their money to see and feel. The average ball club is lucky to have three players to hit the pill around the park, but Newark and the Grays are better than the average and have six men to do that job. For the Grays it is Whatley .298, Bankhead .310, Vic Harris .304, Gibson .420, Leonard .398 and Easterling .301, or an average of .388. This is hitting power that many major league clubs can use. Abe Manley's Newark Eagles' sextette consists of Benson .297, Irvin .302, Wells .298, Stone .340, Dandridge .326 and Pearson .314, averaging .314. The rest of the order is dangerous, but the heavy power is found in the top six.

The difference ⁱⁿ ~~between~~ the teams lies between Josh Gibson and Buck Leonard--two of the greatest players ever developed. Both can hit, field and run bases. They can think, are invincible on defense and their offensive attack is featured by a demolishing spirit, execution of slashing plays--the stuff which distinguishes the great from the ordinary.

Gibson has been playing on foreign soil for two years but returns with a trophy presented by Porto Rican officials for highest batting average and being the most valuable player in the winter league. Gibson hit .436 in 44 games and clouted in 15 home runs. It is significant that this ace receiver won his highest honors in a section where major and minor

2--Grays Newark

leagues do their training.

Buck Leonard remained with the team of his choice, Homestead Grays, played in all of the East-West Games, has been mentioned on every all-star team. He set the pace which resulted in his team winning their ^{fourth and} fifth pennant. In turning in this excellent job he was helped in no small way by Whatlley, Benjamin, Vic Harris, Easterling, Carlisle and Ches Williams, and wants no more credit than his teammates receive.

Newark has been pepped up a whole lot by the addition of Dandridge, Stone and Willie Wells, all of whom burned up the Porto Rican loop for the past three years. They come to assist a squad of youngsters which almost won the title for Newark last year--Irvin, Pearson, Israel and Day. On paper, this is the best hitting team in the Negro National with the exception of Homestead Grays.

Newark's pitching might make a different story. Manley has a group of youngsters who are at home on the mound. Not only can they pitch, but they are endowed with that flaming, fighting spirit of youth. If these hurlers can check the Grays' habit of knocking in doubles, triples and home runs, the story will be different, but just as thrilling.

The Homestead aggregation has a steady pitching staff, highlighted by Ray Brown--considered the best righthander in the League. Supported by Hamilton, Wright, Partlow, Welmaker and Fields, the Grays feel safe from extended batting rallies by Newark or any other club.

It's going to be a mad tussle any way it is looked at--and the dope is that there is going to be plenty of heavy hitting on both sides.

~~Homestead Grays make one more Sunday stop before returning to League territory. On April 26th the Homesteaders meet~~

3--Newark Grays

~~The powerful Kansas City Monarchs in New Orleans. On the fol-~~
~~lowing Sunday, May 3rd, they meet their arch enemies, Newark~~
~~Eagles for the third time in four weeks. This will be the~~
~~xxxxx official opening of the Manley crew on their home~~
~~grounds and a capacity crowd is being prepared for.~~

The lineups:

GRAYS

Whatley rf

Benjamin cf

Vic Harris lf *Carlisle*

Josh Gibson c

Leonard lb

Easterling or Wilson 3b

~~C. Williams~~ or Bankhead ss

~~Carlisle 2b~~
C. Williams 2b

PITCHERS

Ray Brown

Wright

Partlow

Hamilton

Welmaker

Fields

NEWARK

Brown or Benson cf

Wells ss

Irvin lf

Stone rf

Danxdridge 2b

Pearson lb

Israel 3b

Parks or Ruffin c

PITCHERS

Manning

Hooker

Hill

James Brown

Hopgood

Day

NOTE: Homestead Grays play their first game at Forbes Field, Pittsburgh, on Saturday, May 9th--meeting the New York Black Yankees. Prices of admission will be uniform throughout the season. General admission 75c; Bleachers 55c. On Sundays and holidays box seats at \$1.10 will be sold. There will be no reserved seats for weekday games.

Nor will there be a change of price for doubleheaders.

All twilight games will start between 5 and 6 p.m. Doubleheaders will start between 2 and 3 p.m.